

"You are not attending!" said the Mouse to Alice, severely. "What are you thinking of?"

"I beg your pardon," said Alice very humbly: "You had got to the fifth bend, I think?"

"I had *not*!" cried the Mouse, sharply and very angrily.

"A knot!" said Alice, always ready to make herself useful, and looking anxiously about her. "Oh, do let me help to undo it!"

"I shall do nothing of the sort," said the Mouse, getting up and walking away. "You insult me by talking such nonsense!"

"I didn't mean it!" pleaded poor Alice. "But you're so easily offended, you know!"

The Mouse only growled in reply.

"Please come back, and finish your story!" Alice called after it. And the others all joined in



chorus "Yes, please do!" But the Mouse only shook its head impatiently, and walked a little quicker.

"What a pity it wouldn't stay!" sighed the Lory, as soon as it was quite out of sight.

And an old Crab took the opposite side to her daughter "Ah, my dear!

to you never to lose *your* temper on your tongue, Ma!" said the young Lory reproachfully. "You're enough to try any oyster!"

"I wish I had our Dinah here to help me," said Alice aloud, addressing no one in particular. "She'd soon fetch it back!"

"And who is Dinah, if I may ask?" said the Lory.

Alice replied eagerly, for she was always ready to talk about her pet: "Dinah's my cat, and she's such a capital one for catching mice you don't think! And oh, I wish you could see her with the birds! Why, she'll eat a live one right off her back!"

This speech caused a remarkable sensation among the party. Some of the birds hurried off at once: one old Magpie began wrapping itself up very carefully, re-